

Another abominator of men has acquired terrace of houses, with designs upon obtaining the whole street, with the object of founding colony of women occupiers. These tenement

The colony of woman suffragists who have a quiet summer house on Cape Cod do not go to such extremes, but are content to exclude male callers, whether they are relatives or not. Chicago woman not only shuns displays of abhorrence of the opposite sex, but she has an accountancy of her sex in her constituency.

Another, who was herself rich, executed a will by which, at her death, substantial bequests were left to her female relatives, while the males inherited the paltry sum of \$1 each. The third left a sum of money at her decease to be used in founding and endowing a home for women who had attained a certain age without marrying.

There is reported to be, in one of the Western States, a society of women sworn to renounce the companionship of man for life. Each member registers a vow to remain single, and the society is so organized that it does not require its adherents to withdraw from the other responsibilities of the world. A member is free to have a father, to own a brother

A woman who died recently in New Orleans

used to boast that she had not spoken to a man for thirty years, and another in Philadelphia was equally jubilant over the fact that she had lived five-and-twenty-years in one house without over a man crossing the threshold. By probably the bitterest man-hater of modern times was an Austrian woman who, at the time of her death, was engaged in developing a pia-

Fortunately all the women who abominated men are not of such a pronounced type as this. Some of them, indeed, wear armor that is not always proof against the onslaught of the enemy, as is evidenced by the case of the girl who, after initiating a violent crusade against

the other half of human kind, and getting
lot of recruits, suddenly fell a victim to the
wiles of a preening young swain and married
him.

THE PENALTY OF HUMOR.
**Why Was Not Franklin Asked to Write
the Declaration of Independence?**
From Harper's Magazine.
When the time came for the people of the
thirteen united colonies to proclaim to the
world that they were free, and that they held
themselves absolved from all allegiance to the
British Crown, and that all political connection

tion between them and Great Britain was ultimately dissolved, a committee of the Continental Congress was appointed to draw up a declaration of independence. The members of this committee were Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Robert R. Livingston of New York, and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia.

Virginia. Why was it that their colleagues committed the writing of the Declaration of Independence to Thomas Jefferson and not Benjamin Franklin? The Virginian was not the most prominent man even of his own section, and, although his reputation could not fairly be termed local, it was but little more than the name of the Pennsylvanian was well known throughout the whole civilized world. Franklin was, not only, the foremost citizen

Philadelphia, where the Congress was sitting, he was the most experienced publicist and the most accomplished man of letters in all the thirteen colonies; and he was specially well

equipped for the drawing up of an appeal to Europe, as he had but just returned from London where he had been pleading the cause of his countrymen with indomitable courage and indisputable skill. Yet Franklin was not asked to write the Declaration of Independence; and although he and Adams made a few verbal amendments, the credit of that great State paper belongs to Jefferson. And why was that this responsibility was placed on Jefferson?

think the explanation lies in the fact that Franklyn was a humorist. Not only was Franklyn's humor common sense felt to be plain a humorist went to the court of Europe when the thought needed to be tried in all the lofty rhetoric that the most fervid enthusiasm could produce, but also, I fear me greatly, his colleagues were afraid that Franklyn would have his joke. It would be a good joke, no doubt—probably a very

most reverent treatment. It was this, Franklin had to pay the penalty of humor in the last century as just as Abraham Lincoln had to pay it in the 19th century. Because Lincoln was swift to seize upon an incongruity, and because he sought

Even after his death there were honest folk who held the shrewdest and loftiest of our statesmen to have been little better than buffoon. Of the three greatest Americans

Franklin, Washington, and Lincoln, to be humorists; and it is, perhaps, his deficiency of humor which makes Washington seem more remote from us and less friendly than either of the others.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

"Rip Van Winkle," with music by Planquette, to be the next ballet at the London Alhambra.

The *Dublin Nation*, after having been sunk for some years in the *Irish Catholic*, has come to life again.

R. D. Blackmore has just completed his seventh year. It is twenty-seven years since "Lorna Doone" was first published.

A famous old tavern, the Green Dragon, Blackfriars, is being torn down. It stands close to the site of the house owned by Shakespeare and left by his will to his daughter, Susannah Hall. George Meredith is preparing a definitive edition of his works and is said to be slashing up the earlier editions vigorously with the blue pen.

A model of Napoleon's coffin, made of the same piece of ebony wood by the man who made the coffin, an old officer of the Grande Armée, has been presented by his grandson to the Artillery Museum.

Malaga, Huelva, Cadiz, Tarragona, and other maritime provinces of Spain are trying to emulate the example of Seville and Barcelona and to collect money to buy a war ship each to present to the Government in order to have a powerful Spanish fleet as soon as possible. It is a curious revival of the ship money idea.

Flora MacDonald's bare feet have raised a storm in Scotland. The town of Inverness proposed to put up a statue of the Highland heroine, who the soldiers trampled without shoes or stockings.

Liane de Pury, the French dentist, is said to have tried to commit suicide recently, in order to have been driven to the act by the terror inspired by threatening letters. After this became known a number of other women of her class complained to the police of similar letters which had reached them. It was not until the police had examined and directed that 3,500 francs should be given and given directly to certain individuals, at the expense

restants near the Louvre, otherwise the same would throw vital over the person addressed. A watch was set at the branch Post Office, and soon a young man appeared and asked for the mail addressed with the initials. He was at once arrested and in spite of indignant protests taken to the Commissary of Police's office. There he was luckily able to show an advertisement for a wife, a "young woman or a widow, good looking and healthy even if she be not rich," which he had inserted in the daily newspapers long before the threatening letters were received. The persecutor of the women had used his Post Office address, playing a practical joke on him as well.